

Kidd Brother
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. TROPICAL ISLAND - MAGIC HOUR

As we look out to sea through swaying palm fronds a GALLEON is anchored off shore in the waning daylight.

A boat is being pulled ashore by a couple of SEMINOLE INDIANS. Exiting the boat are two more INDIANS and half a dozen SPANIARDS in Conquistador armor.

A title is superimposed:

"ISLAND OF BIMINI - MARCH, 1513"

The group is met by an authoritative-looking INDIAN who motions to the group to follow.

Torches are lit, and the group proceeds, caravan style, inland.

EXT. JUNGLE PATHWAY - DUSK

The Spaniards, illuminated by torchlight, peer around at their murky surroundings, punctuated by strange cries of unidentifiable creatures.

Their Indian guide motions them to hurry. The Spaniards continue on, a bit of trepidation in their eyes.

EXT. STONE AMPHITHEATER - DUSK

The group at last comes up over a rise looking down on an ancient-looking small amphitheater, with stones and overgrown vines radiating out from a central object: a sort of OVOID MIRROR of obsidian glass in a gold ornamented frame, flanked by a couple of one foot sconces on either side. The object stands alone, silent in the middle of this jungle clearing.

The Spaniards look down on the scene in wonder.

One of the Indian guides motions up through the trees. The Spaniards look up to see the FULL MOON has risen and is beginning to add its light to the scene.

Suddenly, to the Spaniards' amazement, the Mirror begins to undulate. A strange unearthly light emanates from it and the sconces begin to bubble like fountains of light. The intensifying aurora forces the Spaniards to shield their eyes.

The light from the Mirror continues to grow in brilliance until it completely WHITES OUT our view.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TV SCREEN - DAY

In CLOSE-UP, LONG JOHN SILVER snarls:

SILVER

Thems that dies'll be the lucky ones!

We WIDEN from the "Treasure Island" video on the Television screen to reveal:

THE STEVENSON LIVING ROOM

playfully decked out for a pirate-themed birthday party. Cardboard skull-and-crossbones, crepe palm trees, and plastic "treasure" adorn everything.

Half a dozen third grade BOYS in bandanas and sashes, wield plastic swords and flintlocks as they romp throughout the cozy Queen-Anne-style Long Island home.

Not among them is DANIEL, the precocious eight year old birthday boy whose love of pirate lore has inspired this party. He alone sits in front of the tube, arms folded, rejecting the world.

He's approached by his BBQ Apron-clad father, PETER STEVENSON:

PETER

Ahoy there Cap'n Daniel. We're getting ready to eat.

DANIEL

Dad, why can't pirate movies be more realistic?

PETER

I suppose its because if they were accurate they'd all have to be rated ARRRRR!

DANIEL

(bored)
Right Dad...

PETER

Come on, join the crew, we're having your favorite...roasted corn.

DANIEL

That's not my favorite.

PETER

(Shrugs)
It's not? Well, good thing it was only a... buck-an-ear.

Peter pokes at Daniel who winces at the terrible joke, but ends up giggling in spite of himself. Daniel swats playfully back at Peter.

DANIEL

Daaad...

PETER

Come on, Captain Kidd. Lets get some
real pirate chow.

Peter hoists Daniel up piggy back and they head outside.

DANIEL

Dad, I told you...

EXT. STEVENSON FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

The party theme is continued out under the large shade trees in front of the house. Daniel and Peter dodge pint-size marauders as they make their way toward the table.

DANIEL (cont'd)

...Captain Kidd wasn't a pirate. He
was a Privateer. He was
commissioned by the King.

PETER

Oops. Pardon me oh Master of the History
Book.

They pass the barbecue which is temporarily manned by soccer mom
MAGGIE STEVENSON.

PETER

(to Maggie)

Okay Scullery Wench, you're relieved of
duty.

She hands the burger flipper over to Peter.

MAGGIE

I SEE YOUR PIRATE SENSITIVITY TRAINING
IS PAYING OFF. NOW I CAN FINALLY GET
BACK TO SWABBING THAT POOPDECK...OR
SHOULD I JUST POUR THE PUNCH?

She gives Peter a peck. Daniel winces. Peter puts him down.

A small SEDAN full of TEENAGERS pulls up in front of the house. Two
GIRLS climb out and head toward the house while the car waits.

One of them is Daniel's fourteen-year-old sister BONNIE-ANN. She is
accompanied by her overly-made-up friend TIFFANY.

BONNIE-ANN

(to Tiffany)

I'll be right back.

She runs into the house.

Tiffany, meanwhile, observes the party. She wanders over to Daniel, who is piling onions on his burger.

TIFFANY
You're Daniel, right?

DANIEL
(without looking up)
Yeah, what's it to ya?

TIFFANY
Bonnie-Ann wasn't joking about this pirate fetish stuff.

DANIEL
You got a problem?

TIFFANY
(haughty)
For a kid who hasn't even hit puberty yet, what do you see in all this testosto-rama?

DANIEL
You mean why do I like pirate stuff?

TIFFANY
(sarcastic)
Um...yeah.

DANIEL
(eye to eye)
For one thing, pirates never allow bilge swilling, scab-pickin' scurvy old girls aboard their ships.

Still holding her in his stare, he picks up an onion and takes a big bite out of it. Tiffany doesn't know whether to laugh or run.

Just then, Bonnie-Ann darts back out of the house. Tiffany gladly turns her attention from Daniel.

Bonnie-Ann approaches Tiffany and hands her a small yellow walkie talkie. The two pair off out of earshot and keep their voices low. Daniel keeps a wary eye on them, however.

BONNIE-ANN
I'll call you tonight.

TIFFANY
Bonnie-Ann...you're not gonna chicken out are you?

BONNIE-ANN
(uncomfortable)

What am I, Shirley Temple? I'll call you
tonight.

Tiffany smiles.

TIFFANY

Okay then.

She grabs a potato chip and bounces back to the waiting car, full of
so many bodies she can hardly squeeze in.

TIFFANY

(waving)

Bye Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson!

PETER

Bye Tiffany.

As the car door opens to accept Tiffany, the strains of a caustic hip-
hop chant escape briefly into the atmosphere.

Peter and Maggie exchange glances.

Bonnie-Ann gravitates to the food and obliviously begins preparing
herself a chili-dog. Maggie observes.

MAGGIE

(to herself, sweetly)

"Hi Mom, I'm home. How's your day been?"

BONNIE-ANN

(mouth full)

Hi Mom.

PETER

I...uh gotta go set things up for the
treasure hunt.

Peter exits as Maggie stirs the potato salad.

MAGGIE

(to Bonnie-Ann)

So what've you guys been up to?

BONNIE-ANN

(no eye contact)

Oh you know, just chillin'.

Then...

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)

Say Mom. Can I get a tattoo?

MAGGIE

(calmly)

Have the snows begun in the nether
regions or has the meaning of the word
"no" changed in the last three days?

BONNIE-ANN

But Dad has one...

MAGGIE

I told you before, Bonnie-Ann: He got that thing in his naive and foolish days of youth...in the navy...and before he met me.

BONNIE-ANN

But you still married him.

We see Peter across the yard, setting up some sort of sign-board for a party game. The CELL PHONE on his belt RINGS and he picks it up.

We hear bits of Peter's side of a phone conversation in the distance and see him gestivulate:

PETER

(across the yard)

what? ...oh no!... what about...etc.

...as Maggie and Bonnie-Ann continue:

BONNIE-ANN

What is Dad's tattoo a picture of anyway?

MAGGIE

That thing on his arm has been an indecipherable blue blob as long as I've known your father. Why would you want an indecipherable blue blob on your body forever?

BONNIE-ANN

I just think they're rad, that's all.

A grim looking Peter hangs up his phone as he approaches the girls, joined by Daniel.

DANIEL

What's up, Dad?

PETER

(to Maggie, et al)

I've got to go in. Somebody's just hacked the main servers.

MAGGIE

Oh Peter!...What about Daniel's party?

PETER

This won't wait.

(then, kneeling, to Daniel)

Listen son, I apologize but I have to go chase some real pirates. You understand don't you?

DANIEL
(disappointed)
Sure Dad.

PETER
(hugs Daniel)
Happy Birthday, Captain.

DANIEL
(stiff upper lip)
Thanks.

Peter departs as the girls look on. Bonnie-Ann is pensive.

INT. BONNIE-ANNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's a typical teenage girl's room. Pop-star photos have largely displaced the stuffed animals.

Bonnie-Ann is on her back, feet on the wall, talking on the phone.

BONNIE-ANN
...and I'm all "I am so sick of being thought of as miss clean cut"...
(laughs)
That's what Heather said...Of course I'm going through with it.

At that moment, Daniel wanders by the open door and pauses, unnoticed, to eavesdrop a moment. He stands there tying knots in a piece of rope.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)
But get this: Heather goes "He says he was way into you but he just couldn't get past that squeaky image." So I figure this ought to take care of it...Who cares what they think? I'm my own person, just like you guys.

Daniel shakes his head and goes on about his business.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

The Stevenson SUV pulls up near the rear entrance.

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel get out.

MAGGIE
Have fun in Sunday School. We'll see you in the main service. Oh, Bonnie-Ann...

Bonnie-Ann turns.

MAGGIE (cont'd)
...Don't forget your Bible.

Bonnie-Ann steps back to the car and retrieves the pink leather volume.

BONNIE-ANN
(not really thankful)
Thanks Mom.

Peter and Maggie head off to park the car as Bonnie-Ann stuffs the Bible in her backpack and she and Daniel proceed toward their respective classes.

INT. CHURCH HALLWAY

DANIEL
What's with you today?

BONNIE-ANN
What are you talking about?

DANIEL
You. You got out of bed on time, you were dressed before I even finished breakfast. And we got all the way here without the usual yelling and screaming rituals we've all come depend on and enjoy every Sunday.

BONNIE-ANN
Mind your own business, small fry.

She heads into a middle-sized assembly room, full of others near her age. Daniel shakes his head and enters a similar room across the hall, full of Daniel-sized kids.

INT. TEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

A small group of musicians leads the assembly in singing and clapping. Bonnie-Ann wistfully holds her chorus book in the back row.

A small BEEP comes from her backpack.

Bonnie-Ann reaches down and retrieves the small walkie-talkie, adjusts the sound level to keep it low, and speaks into it.

BONNIE-ANN
(into walkie talkie)
Okay I'm on my way.

She packs up and slips out the classroom door, headed for the parking lot.

INT. CHURCH HALLWAY

Her exit does not escape the notice of Daniel, however, who observes her exit through the open door of his classroom.

Bonnie-Ann makes eye contact with him and stops dead in her tracks for a moment. Her face contorts into a deadly threatening glower as she points an accusing "if you tell you're dead" finger in his direction. She then dashes out the door.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

Bonnie-Ann approaches the waiting teen-laden sedan. Tiffany hands her the other walkie talkie.

TIFFANY

All right Bonnie-Ann! You ready for this?

Bonnie-Ann replaces the walkie talkie with its companion in her backpack and climbs in.

BONNIE-ANN

Ready as I'll ever be. It's for a good cause, right?

TIFFANY

(grinning)

The pursuit of Joey Martin? Oh yeah!

The car speeds off into suburbia.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

A sign on the FASHION MART jewelry shop reads:

"FREE PIERCING With Any Purchase"

Bonnie-Ann is accompanied by Tiffany, Amber (of the black nails and lipstick persuasion) and Amber's gum-chewing boyfriend Lance, who never once takes his hands off Amber's person.

Bonnie-Ann and Tiffany hover over a rack of jewelry (while Amber and Lance hover over each other.)

TIFFANY

Bonnie-Ann will you *pick* something?
You're running out of time.

BONNIE-ANN

Okay okay..chill.

She selects a simple gold ring and heads to the checkout which is occupied by BRUCE, a wannabe rocker, complete with hair extensions.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)
Hi...I'd like to get this...

He rings it up.

BRUCE
Okay that'll be twenty eight sixty seven.

She pays him and, as he makes change, she adds:

BONNIE-ANN
...and uh...I need to get pierced.

BRUCE
(doesn't bat an eye)
Okay, just a minute.

He locks the cash register and steps behind the curtain into the back room, leaving Tiffany and Bonnie-Ann for a moment.

TIFFANY
(whispers)
See...I told you he wouldn't ask for ID or parental permission. He's the one that did Stephanie's nose.

BONNIE-ANN
Didn't that get infected?

TIFFANY
Nah, she just had a cold.

Bruce motions from the curtain:

BRUCE
Okay, come on back.

Bonnie-Ann swallows hard, gives Tiffany a look.

TIFFANY
Just keep thinking of Joey.

BONNIE-ANN
(forces a smile)
Yeah. Joey.

She steps toward the curtain.

TIFFANY
Okay we'll see you later.

BONNIE-ANN
What?! Hey I thought you were gonna stick by me.

TIFFANY

Bonnie-Ann, come on. You know Lance
can't handle the sight of blood. We'll
just be over in the music store.

She, Amber, and Lance head off as Bonnie-Ann sheepishly joins Bruce.

INT. FASHION MART JEWELRY BACK ROOM - DAY

BRUCE

Have a seat.

A spotlighted stool sits among the towers of cardboard boxes with a
bottle of alcohol and some cotton balls on the nearby counter. Bonnie-
Ann climbs onto the stool.

BRUCE

Okay where do you want it?

Trembling slightly, Bonnie-Ann lifts the hem of her shirt to reveal
her navel.

BRUCE (cont'd)

(smiles, then softly)

...all right.

Bruce reaches for a syringe of Novocaine, clearing the needle by
squirting a bit into the air, as Bonnie-Ann looks on.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC STORE - DAY

Bonnie-Ann's friends thumb through the used CD bins.

AMBER

Lance, do you think Joey will come back
to Bonnie-Ann?

LANCE

I dunno. Maybe if Christine dumped him.
But last I knew they were permanently
velcroed together at the lips.

TIFFANY

Hey you guys she's probably done. Let's
go.

AMBER

Yeah, Lance already has everything the
Chili Peppers ever did anyway.

LANCE (cont'd)

(smiles...realizing)

Hey yeah.

INT. FASHION MART JEWELRY BACK ROOM - DAY

A less-than-optimal Bonnie-Ann slumps in a chair near the checkout as the threesome approach.

TIFFANY
You made it girl!

AMBER
Lessee lessee lessee!

Bonnie-Ann stands, slowly, wincing a bit. She gently pulls up her hem to display the trophy.

TIFFANY
All right!

Tiffany gives her a hug.

But Bonnie-Ann's eyes roll back in her head as she nearly passes out. Tiffany feels her go limp in her arms and struggles to keep her upright.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Whoa girl.

Amber and Lance laugh as Lance gives Tiffany a hand supporting Bonnie-Ann.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Come on...let's get you back.

They head out.

BRUCE
(not very sincere)
Thank you, come again.

Bruce smirks in amusement, cranks up the CD player and goes back to his guitar magazine.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

The Stevenson vehicle is exiting the parking lot as churchgoers continue to file out of the sanctuary. The SUV's windows are rolled down. Maggie waves to a friend.

MAGGIE
Bye Marcia! See you Wednesday.

INT. STEVENSON SUV - DAY

Bonnie-Ann sits quietly in a corner of the back seat, looking out the window. She is in pain, but knows she cannot show it.

Daniel looks over at his sister.

DANIEL

Bonnie-Ann, you don't look too good.

MAGGIE

(noticing)

Oh Honey, you coming down with something?

BONNIE-ANN

(glowers at Daniel)

I'll be all right.

MAGGIE

We'll get some lunch and maybe you'll feel better.

Daniel and Bonnie-Ann eye each other but remain silent for the journey home.

INT. STEVENSON KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Maggie is busy canning some preserves.

Peter enters, getting home from work. He looks weary. Maggie notices him enter:

MAGGIE

Peter! You're home early!

She gives him a lingering kiss. As they are occupied a gentle metallic POP is heard. Maggie's eyebrows raise.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

(smiling)

Mmmm...my jam!. It sealed! When I was a kid I used to help my gramma canning. I loved that pop sound more than anything I can remember.

Peter barely hears her. She turns her attention briefly back to the jars she is pulling from the boiling water with tongs.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

You hungry? Can I get you something?

PETER

No thanks, I already grabbed something
...Listen, Maggie...

Maggie turns to see the look in his eye and grows concerned.

PETER (cont'd)

I don't know if you've seen the news today, but our stock tanked. It's down to less than a dollar.

MAGGIE

(gasps)
Oh Peter!

PETER

The bosses decided to send everybody home early while they decide what action to take. It seems the boys on Wall Street don't take kindly to a Computer Security firm having its own servers broken into and ransacked.

MAGGIE

What are we going to do?

PETER

(takes a breath)
Well, without working capital, there'll probably be layoffs, so I'll be getting my resume' together. And since most of our savings and retirement was tied up in that stock...well...we're in for choppy seas for a little while.

MAGGIE

What about our trip? What should I tell the kids?

Peter scratches his head.

PETER

I don't know, Maggie. I just don't know.

She clings to him in silence. He pulls back enough to look her in the eye.

PETER (cont'd)

I did call Morrie Gelman, though.

MAGGIE

He's that financial guy you met on the train?

PETER

Yeah. I made an appointment for you and me to go see him. Maybe get some advice on how to weather the storm. We're meeting him for dinner at seven.

INT. STEVENSON FAMILY ROOM - AFTERNOON

A garish music video blares from the tube as Bonnie-Ann simultaneously talks on the phone and examines her new navel ring.

BONNIE-ANN
(on the phone)
Of course it still hurts, but it's
getting better I think.

Just then Daniel wanders into the room, wearing an eyepatch and a plastic hook.

He does a double take upon seeing Bonnie-Ann's midriff. His jaw drops and he raises up his eye-patch.

Bonnie-Ann notices his presence and quickly puts her shirt down.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)
(a bit panicked)
uh...IgottagoI'llcallyouback.

She hangs up.

DANIEL
(aghast)
A belly-button ring? You are SO
busted...

BONNIE-ANN
What's it to you? It's my body.

DANIEL
Mom is gonna have an entire herd of
cows. And Dad is gonna have puppies AND
kittens.

BONNIE-ANN
Not if certain weasly little pie-rats
know what's good for them and keep their
mouths shut.

A brief standoff, then:

DANIEL
(realizing, smiles)
Good for them?..yeah! What is in it for
me, Bonnie-Ann?

Maggie and Peter step into the room. They are dressed for dinner.

MAGGIE
Kids, your father and I have to go out
for a while.

DANIEL
Where ya goin?

PETER

We're having dinner with a business associate of mine. Daniel, you're the man of the house for a while, but I need you to listen to your sister while we're away.

BONNIE-ANN

You mean I have to baby-sit Captain Squid?

MAGGIE

Bonnie-Ann, I need you to act like the adult you claim to be and take care of things. Now there's some leftover chicken in the fridge and some cookies in the cabinet. If there's an emergency you have my cell number. One rule: NO GUESTS. I don't want any of your friends over here til we're back. Now, we're depending on you, do you think you can manage to live by just one rule?

BONNIE-ANN

(not thrilled)

Yes, Mom.

EXT. STEVENSON HOUSE - NIGHT

In WIDE SHOT we see the front of the Stevenson home. A full moon is high in the sky. The front porch is approached by the FIGURE of a fifteen year old male.

We hear the DOORBELL RING as we:

CUT TO:

INT. STEVENSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel are lounging as usual in front of the TV, she doing her nails and he reading a dusty looking history book on Captain Kidd when the DOORBELL RINGS.

The two look at each other, then Daniel races for the front door.

INT. ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

Daniel arrives at the entryway and starts to drag a stool over so that he can reach the peep-hole, but Bonnie-Ann beats him to it.

She peers through and GASPS.

DANIEL

What? Who is it?

BONNIE-ANN

(whispers, hyperventilating)
Joey!

DANIEL
Doctor Octopus? I thought you broke up
with him ages ago.

BONNIE-ANN
Maybe he's finally come to his senses.

She primps, checking herself in the hallway mirror. The DOORBELL RINGS
again.

DANIEL
You're not gonna let him in here?! Mom
said no guests!

BONNIE-ANN
He's not a guest. He's almost
like...family.

She reaches to open the door.

DANIEL
(disgusted)
Yeah, a demented single chromosome
cousin.

BONNIE-ANN
Joey! What's up?

DANIEL
(to himself)
Not I.Q.'s, that's for sure.

JOEY
Hey Bonnie-Ann. Uh... Say, listen, I was
talking to Tiffany... and she said you
had something to show me. I was in the
neighborhood so...

BONNIE-ANN
(smiles)
Well, yeah. I guess I do.

A beat.

JOEY
So... are you gonna invite me in or what?

BONNIE-ANN
Sure, c'mon in.

She opens the screen door for Joey and leads him in as Daniel stares
daggers at her, growling under his breath. He stomps off.

Joey follows Bonnie-Ann, but not before grabbing a handful of candies from a nearby candy dish and stashing them in his pocket.

INT. STEVENSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JOEY

So uh, what is it?
Daniel decides he'd better keep an eye
on the pair and watches from around a
corner.

BONNIE-ANN

Hold on a second. Stand right there. Now
close your eyes.

JOEY

(sighs)
Okay. Closed.

Bonnie-Ann quickly ties up her shirt tail in a knot to reveal the new addition to her torso and strikes a pose, smiling like a supermodel.

BONNIE-ANN

Okay open.

JOEY

(opening his eyes)
Ohhhhhh...Bonnie-Ann...

He glides toward her.

JOEY (cont'd)

You know that makes me wanna...

Daniel can't handle any more. He re-appears from his hiding place.

DANIEL

(interrupting)
How irresponsible can one person get,
Bonnie-Ann? First you go get your belly
button mutilated, then you let
Neanderthals in the house, against Mom's
orders, and now you're flashing an acre
of skin at 'em.

BONNIE-ANN

(angry)
And when would you have me start living
my life, you little tattle tale?
Tomorrow? Next year? I'm gonna live life
now and get mine *today* if you don't
mind.

JOEY

(to Bonnie-Ann)
Hey, who's Captain Hornblower here?

DANIEL

Only my rat-faced little squealing
brother.

JOEY

Sounds like he needs to learn about how
children should be seen and not heard.

Bonnie-Anne smiles, nods. That's all the encouragement Joey needs.

Joey kneels, motions to Daniel with his finger.

JOEY (cont'd)

(softly)

Say listen, Captain. C'mere.

Daniel eyes Joey warily but takes a step towards him.

JOEY (cont'd)

(puts his arm on Daniel's shoulder)

Y'know, your sister and I...we'd kinda
like a little...

Joey springs the trap: he grabs Daniel by the arms.

JOEY (cont'd)

...PRIVACY!

Daniel squirms in the burly teen's grip as he is hauled down the:

HALLWAY.

DANIEL

(struggling)

It's all over for you guys. Mom and Dad
are gonna...

JOEY

Gonna what? I think I sense a storm
brewing, Captain.

They enter the:

BATHROOM

Bonnie-Ann follows the boys, smiling. Joey winks at her. Daniel
struggles vainly to free himself.

JOEY

Do you know what a swirly is Captain?

Joey raises the toilet seat with his foot and hits the flush handle.
He up-ends Daniel, holding his head dangerously close to the water's
surface.

DANIEL

(struggling)
Lemme go you chum-eating bilge rat!

JOEY (cont'd)
Looks like stormy seas ahead for you,
kid...unless...

Upside-down, Daniel's face is turning red--the swirling waters just inches away from his face.

DANIEL
...unless what?

JOEY
Unless somebody disappears and keeps
their freaky mouth shut.

BONNIE-ANN
That's enough Joey. I think he gets the
message.

Joey sets Daniel upright. But Daniel's face remains red with anger and humiliation. He glares at Bonnie-Ann and races out of the room and up the stairs, as a laughing Joey watches.

JOEY
You better stay in the crow's nest if
you know what's good for you, squab.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Daniel hurriedly gets a chair to pull on the cord that lowers a set of stairs leading to the attic, tears streaming down his cheeks.

Daniel ascends to :

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Climbing into the dusty gloom, Daniel pulls the stair-ladder up after him.

He then collapses in an aging wicker chair to catch his breath and sulk.

DANIEL
(muttering, sniffing)
"..crow's nest". "squab"...If I could
only...

His sobs fade slowly into dark quiet.

Suddenly the silence is broken by the distant BOOMING sound of a cannon. Daniel wipes his eyes and peers around in the darkness to find where the sound might emanate from.

As his eyes get used to the darkness and his breathing slows, the silence of the place returns.

Daniel begins to look around at the dusty croquet sets, tricycles, and other relics of the past that emerge from the darkness.

A passing cloud allows MOONLIGHT to stream in from a small window. It falls largely upon what appears to be a FULL LENGTH MIRROR, tucked against the wall in a corner. It is in a rather ornate dusty golden frame and exhibits what appear to be empty sconces, one on either side. (This is in fact the same object we saw in our opening scene.)

Gradually other sounds emerge, Indecipherable but fierce CRIES of men, some in French, others...who knows? Odd CLANKS and CREAKS are accompanied by the steady distant LAPPING of water.

As Daniel begins to determine that all the sounds are coming from the direction of the mirror in the corner, he slowly approaches it.

To his surprise, the mirrored surface begins to RIPPLE, emanating a vague light of its own. The two attached sconces spring suddenly to life, not as sconces, but as fountains, each flowing some sort of glowing liquid that is not quite water.

Daniel's heart is in his throat. He stands back in apprehension.

But soon the rippling surface of the mirror begins to clear, revealing an image that is no longer a reflection. As Daniel continues to stare, the image resolves to that of a space that seems aglow with a golden light of its own.

Daniel slowly approaches the mirror. Gazing in disbelief at the riches appearing inside of the mirror. He peeks around behind the mirror. It's only a dusty attic wall. But in the mirror...it's as if it was a DOORWAY TO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Daniel gazes more closely at this other world. It is a space full of mind-boggling riches: chests of silver, gold and jewels, Tapestries, golden sculptures, bolts of luxuriant silk and satin.

DANIEL
(to himself)
It looks so real...

It is so vivid Daniel can't help but reach out as if to touch it. To his amazement, his hand passes right through the mirror!

He quickly pulls his hand back, realizing how impossible it is.

But then he begins to wonder. He passes his hand through again. Then his whole arm. Finally Daniel steps completely through the Mirror's frame.

As he does so he can hear the clock in the downstairs hall begin to strike EIGHT. Its chimes, however, are soon lost to him, echoing off into the distance.

INT. TREASURE HOLD - DAY

Daniel looks around at his new surroundings. The Mirror itself now serves as a window back into the dark attic.

The ground underneath Daniel is unsteady, causing him to nearly lose his balance, until, with the lapping of the waves, he realizes...

DANIEL

This is a ship! I'm on board a ship.

Then he examines further. A sturdy cross-beam over where the Mirror sits is emblazoned with ornate gold lettering that reads:

____ "QUEDAGH MERCHANT"

He puzzles over it for only a moment.

DANIEL (cont'd)

The *Quedagh Merchant*...Captain Kidd!!
Captain Kidd took this ship.

Daniel peers out a small window to observe, not far away, another ship, with a small boat shuttling several MEN toward the one he is on. Standing in its bow is a commanding figure that could only be KIDD himself.

DANIEL (cont'd)

Captain Kidd!

Daniel continues to watch as Kidd and his men come aboard. The *Quedagh Merchant* crew has already been subdued by several of Kidd's leering crewmen.

Kidd, flanked by apprentice JOHN BARLICORN, and an oily-looking JOSEPH PALMER, proceeds to inspect this newly captured prize.

To Daniel's shock they begin to head his way. Outside the door he hears Kidd giving orders:

KIDD

Open this hatch, mister Palmer.

The rattling of keys and chains is heard briefly and then the hatch door opens, spilling light into the hold, revealing the silhouetted Kidd, Palmer, and Barlicorn.

They feast their eyes on the unimaginable treasure found there.

PALMER

By all the saints, Captain! Rich men at last, we are.

KIDD

Belay that, mister Palmer. We've a job that needs be done.

Daniel, hides behind some bales of silk, listening.

Barlicorn, a wide-eyed youth, does a hands-on inspection.

BARLICORN

Would you look at this!

Barlicorn can't get enough of it. He dances through the stacked wonders, running his hands over and through it all.

Daniel is forced to continually shift his hiding position to avoid capture.

It isn't long, however, before in his scramble to escape detection, Daniel stumbles over a pile of silver, landing in a clattering sprawl at Kidd's feet.

KIDD

And what be this? A stripling stowaway I venture.

He grabs Daniel and pulls him up by the collar. Palmer and Barlicorn chuckle as Kidd confronts Daniel nose to nose.

KIDD (cont'd)

A bit pale for a Moor, ye be. What port do ye hale from, lad?

Daniel trembles.

PALMER

Out with it. Where do you live, boy?

DANIEL

(trying to think)
I...live in...in the mirror.

He motions toward the glass in the corner. Palmer and Barlicorn break into laughter.

PALMER

I'll be guessin' a pookah he might be.

KIDD

And what might you be doing in yon glass, mister...?

DANIEL

My name's Daniel.

KIDD

(chuckles)
Aye, like the prophet, to be sure. So mister Daniel: prophesy, says I!

DANIEL

(swallows)
You mean, like, tell the future?

The men laugh.

DANIEL (cont'd)

(starting to brighten)

Well lets see. First I know that you're Captain William Kidd. You've sailed from New York, where you have a wife and a daughter.

Kidd's eyes widen a bit.

KIDD

How d'ye know that?

DANIEL

...and that vessel over there, that's your ship, the *Adventure Galley*, which is probably leaking pretty good about now. But about the future...let's see.

He stares off into the distance. Kidd grows a little pale as the smiles diminish on Palmer and Barlicorn's faces as well.

BARLICORN

What witchery is this?

KIDD

Mister Palmer, Mister Barlicorn, you are dismissed.

PALMER

But Captain...

KIDD

(quite fearsomely)

Leave us now, Mister Palmer!

Palmer and Barlicorn reluctantly depart, pulling the hatch door closed behind them, leaving Kidd alone with Daniel.

KIDD (cont'd)

Now, then, Mister Daniel...

DANIEL

Because your ship needs repairs, you're gonna have to sail for the nearest port, which would be Saint Mary's Island off the coast of Madagascar. There you're gonna meet up with someone you know, Captain Robert Culliford.

KIDD

(sputters in rage)

Culliford? That cursed offspring of the devil's dog!

DANIEL

Yeah I know. About ten years ago he stole your ship; what was it? uh...the *Blessed William* out from under you. This

time you need to watch out for him even more. That guy is bad news...

KIDD

And now my advisor ye be...

DANIEL

...and that man who just left here...Palmer? Watch your back when he's around too.

KIDD

And how be it, Prophet Daniel, that ye knows all these things?

DANIEL

Oh simple, I was just reading abou....
(thinks better of it)
I uh...everybody where I come from knows about you. Or thinks they do.

KIDD

(stands, smiles vainly)
Well, Prophet Daniel perhaps you'd like to sign on to watch this captain's back you warn of. Methinks William Kidd could profit from a personal prophet.

DANIEL

umm...could I get back to you on that?
You see I have a sister who's trying to make a mess of things and...

Daniel is interrupted by a BANGING on the hatch door.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - DAY

A group of surly-looking sailors gathers around the hatchway to the hold. Palmer is banging the hilt of a sword on the door.

PALMER

Captain Kidd, the men would have words with you.

The door opens and Kidd storms into the fray, while Daniel clings to the shadows.

KIDD

(growling)
And what words might they be, Mister Palmer? Words of apology for interrupting an important deliberation?

The bosun, NED WARD speaks for the crew.

WARD

The men have sailed with you these eighteen months, Captain. Weathered much, we have, but these have not been profitable times...until now. Now that this handsome purchase is in our hands it'd only be fair and honorable to break bulk and divide shares.

Kidd angrily draws a WHIP from his belt and, CRACKING it angrily, confronts the group.

KIDD

(snarling)

Break bulk? And where would you spend your new riches, mister Ward? With Davy Jones?

(to the group)

Now listen to me you slobbering group of hyenas, and listen well. This voyage has been commissioned by His Majesty and sundry investors to despoil pirates and plunder the ships of his majesty's enemy, king of France. There will be no breaking of bulk under my command. If any man would have different he may draw his sword now. And if any man would discuss the matter further, let him argue with the King's lash. Do I make myself clear, mister Ward?

A long beat of silence. All eyes are on Kidd.

WARD

(begrudgingly)

Aye, Cap'n.

With that, the group reluctantly backs down, grumbling.

KIDD

You will all do your drinking and your wenching soon enough in a proper English port, where I'll see you swaying from drink instead of swinging from a gibbet. Now, Mister Ward, there's work to be done. Make fast this vessel and prepare to sail for Saint Mary's Island.

More than one of the men raises an eyebrow at this, but go about their work.

Daniel grins as he sees history being unfolded. Kidd replaces his whip to his belt and returns to Daniel. He closes the hatch door behind them as he and Daniel return to the:

INT. TREASURE HOLD - DAY

Kidd is now as syrupy as he was threatening just a moment ago.

KIDD (cont'd)
What say ye, prophet Daniel? Would ye
sign on to ship's articles?

DANIEL
(uneasy)
I'd love to, Captain, but I have to
protect my sister from a certain
unscrupulous scoundrel.

CUT TO:

INT. STEVENSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

We find Bonnie-Ann and Joey on the couch. Joey is putting the moves on
Bonnie-Ann.

JOEY
(softly)
I can't believe you did it for me.
He has his arms around her and buries
his nose in her hair, working his way to
her neck.

BONNIE-ANN
(whispers)
I wanted you to know what kind of girl I
really am.

Bonnie-Ann kicks off her sneakers as the clock on the wall begins to
STRIKE EIGHT.

INT. TREASURE HOLD - DAY

KIDD
A scoundrel says you. Will it be to the
glass ye goes, then?

Daniel nods.

KIDD (cont'd)
Well then, be using this thy sword to
defend thy sister.

He hands Daniel a jewel-encrusted dagger in an ornate sheath. Daniel's
eyes light up.

DANIEL
(smiles)
Thanks, Captain.
(apologetically)
...I should hurry. I'll come back if I
can.

He steps toward the undulating mirror, takes one look back at Kidd and climbs through.

But there is a problem. The last part of Daniel to pass through the passageway is his hand, holding the ornate dagger.

The dagger simply *will not* pass through the mirror's surface. Finally Daniel is forced to let go of the gift as the seemingly liquid surface of the mirror solidifies behind him.

The dagger drops to the floor at the feet of an amazed Captain Kidd.

Kidd stoops to pick up the dagger, then runs his hand in wonder over the mirror's now-solid surface.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Daniel tumbles to the dusty floor with a CRASH as the futility of pulling the dagger through makes him lose his balance.

INT. STEVENSON LIVING ROOM

Bonnie-Ann and Joey are locked in embrace. But the loud THUNK and crash from the ceiling break their concentration.

BONNIE-ANN

What was that?

JOEY

It's just the rug rat. Don't pay any attention.

The clock is just finishing striking eight.

INT. ATTIC

Daniel pulls himself upright, pausing to listen to the chiming clock.

DANIEL

(to himself)

The clock was striking when I left...eight o'clock. No time's passed!

A cloud covers the moon, sending the mirror and the room into darkness. The Mirror ceases its shimmer.

Daniel finds a dangling string and snaps on A LIGHT BULB, returning to examine the now-lifeless Mirror more closely.

He discovers that in the ornamentation surrounding the Mirror is a dusty inscription. He clears part of it to read:

DANIEL (cont'd)

"En la luz de la Luna"...Spanish.
(then, to himself, remembering)
Hey...Bonnie-Ann!

INT. STEVENSON LIVING ROOM

Bonnie-Ann and Joey are even closer now, if that were possible. Joey is kissing her.

He pulls back a moment and looks in Bonnie-Ann's eyes.

JOEY
(softly)
Bonnie-Ann, I want to ask you something.

Bonnie-Ann's heart is pounding. She peers eagerly into Joey's eyes in anticipation.

BONNIE-ANN
(softly)
Yes?

JOEY (cont'd)
...Could you put your sneakers back on?
Your feet kinda stink.

A wave of hurt and then cold resignation sweeps over Bonnie-Ann's face. She pushes Joey away.

BONNIE-ANN
You jerk! You have the romance of a baboon. Get off of me.

JOEY
...but wait Bonnie-Ann, I...

BONNIE-ANN
Just get out of here. I'm not supposed to have guests anyway.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The stairway from the attic descends and Daniel emerges quickly.

DANIEL
(calling)
Bonnie-Ann!

INT. STEVENSON LIVING ROOM

Joey is scrambling away, unable to recover from the *faux pas*. He heads for the door, but not before grabbing another handful from the candy dish.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)

Get out.

JOEY

I...uh...I'll call you next week.

She slams the door behind him.

BONNIE-ANN

(in frustration)

Don't bother. Grrrrr!

Bonnie-Ann is catching her breath, a bit of a tear in her eye, when Daniel bursts in.

DANIEL

Bonnie-Ann, I need...Hey, where's Genghis Khan?

BONNIE-ANN

Off plundering somebody else's village. Leave me alone.

DANIEL

Bonnie-Ann you gotta help me. You're taking Spanish this semester right?

She puts her shoes back on.

BONNIE-ANN

So what. Do your own homework.

She sinks into the couch sulking.

DANIEL

It's not homework. You gotta see this. That big mirror in the attic? I think it was Grandma's. It's some sort of time portal or something.

BONNIE-ANN

Yeah right, Daniel. Go back to your comic books.

DANIEL

Bonnie-Ann, I am not kidding. Grab your Spanish dictionary and help me... Or do you want Mom and Dad to find out about your belly button tonight?

BONNIE-ANN

(angered)

You would, you little...

Bonnie-Ann is too weary to fight. She reluctantly rises from the couch.

BONNIE-ANN

(sighs)

All right, show me.

INT. ATTIC

Daniel re-enters the musty domain with Bonnie-Ann and her backpack-bookbag in tow. She glances around at some of the relics of her "childhood".

Daniel makes a bee line for the Mirror.

DANIEL
C'mere and look at this.

BONNIE-ANN
What. Yeah it's a mirror.

DANIEL
This inscription... Help me translate it. What's this word "luz"?

BONNIE-ANN
That's "light". Hold on, I can get most of this:

She flips through her Spanish dictionary quickly.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)
"regalo"...that's "gift". So it says:"On full moon's light, the past is mine...and return is my gift. But tomorrow...belongs to God."

DANIEL
Tomorrow belongs to God...?

Daniel ponders.

BONNIE-ANN
Daniel, it's just a bunch of old-fashioned nonsense.

The full moon is emerging from behind a cloud. It's light again shines through the small attic window.

DANIEL
(to himself)
Wait a minute...the dagger.

BONNIE-ANN
What dagger?

DANIEL
That's it, Bonnie-Ann! I think it's some sort of one-way time window. "Tomorrow belongs to God" means you can't travel to the future. But you can travel to the past...on full moon's light.

BONNIE-ANN

(scoffs)

Travel to the past. How would *you* know?
Daniel, I've got better things...

DANIEL

..'cause I've *done* it Bonnie-Ann!
(defeated)
I knew you'd never believe me.

At that moment the mirror comes to life. The surface begins to ripple and the sconces bubble their eerie light. Bonnie-Ann steps back.

BONNIE-ANN

Whoa...

Soon the rippling mirrored surface gives way to a coherent image. Golden light pours through it into the dim attic.

Again the incredible riches stacked in the treasure hold of the *Quedagh Merchant* are revealed.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)

(in wonder)

What is it?

DANIEL

What does it look like? A coupla tons of gold and silver.

BONNIE-ANN

Is it a hologram or something? It's like you could almost touch it.

DANIEL

You *can* touch it. That's what I've been trying to tell you. But it's not in our time.

BONNIE-ANN

(smiles, getting excited)

Well, I think some of it needs to *be* in our time, don't you?

She grabs her backpack, removes her books from it, and approaches the mirror with the near-empty pack in her hand.

DANIEL

But Bonnie-Ann, you don't understand...

Too late, she's already stepped through the mirror. Daniel sighs and head and follows her.

INT. TREASURE HOLD - DAY

Pausing but a moment to gaze around in wonder at things her young eyes have never seen, Bonnie-Ann begins filling her backpack with nearby jewelry.

DANIEL
(the voice of experience)
You can take all you want but you can't
get it through the mirror.

BONNIE-ANN
Watch me.

DANIEL
(shrugs)
Suit yourself.

Bonnie-Ann zips up her now-laden backpack and heads back toward the mirror.

She steps through all right. But the backpack won't go.

BONNIE-ANN
Hey!....

She struggles and tugs but finally is forced to give it up.

She steps back into the treasure hold.

DANIEL (cont'd)
See? Stuff from this time can't go to
the future. It can only go backwards--in
full moon's light.

Putting down the backpack, Bonnie-Ann returns to examine the mirror.

BONNIE-ANN
Great. A lot of good that does us.
(then)
What do you suppose this thing is? And
how did Grandma get it?

DANIEL
I've been thinking about that. The
inscription is in Spanish. There's also
some initials, right after the
inscription: "JPdL." All of it looks
like it was added after the original
carving was made.

BONNIE-ANN
(sarcastic)
Golly whillikers...my brother is a Hardy
boy.

DANIEL
(ignoring her, almost to himself)
I'm betting those initials stand for
Juan Ponce de Leon.

BONNIE-ANN

The fountain of youth dude?

DANIEL

I think we must've found out one of the world's great cover-ups. According to the history books he never found his fountain of youth and discovered Florida instead.

BONNIE-ANN

...which turned out to be a fountain of old-age homes.

DANIEL

What I think is, he actually did find *this*. It's not exactly a fountain of youth, but the fact that it lets you visit the past is almost the same thing. You know how legends get mangled... I'm guessing he hauled it back to Spain with him.

BONNIE-ANN

So what's it doing in our attic?

DANIEL

Well, Ponce de Leon also fought some battles against the Moors.

BONNIE-ANN

The what?

DANIEL

...Arabs to you and me.

BONNIE-ANN

So?

DANIEL

So, the knucklehead probably lost his fountain in some battle with them. That's why he hushed it up for the history books.

BONNIE-ANN

So some Arabs got it. Well, agent Mulder, Grandma is *not* Arabic.

DANIEL

But the ship we're on *is* Moorish. And this boat has just fallen into the hands of Captain Kidd.

BONNIE-ANN

What? You mean we're on a pirate ship?

DANIEL

(waxing authoritative)
Well, not exactly. He's a privateer.
Captain Kidd has orders from the king.

BONNIE-ANN
Oh excuse me, Your
Nerdness... "privateer" ship.
So now the Fountain of Youth is part of
Captain Kidd's treasure?

DANIEL
...some of which he ended up stashing in
New England on Gardiners Island, where
Grandma used to live.

BONNIE-ANN
And you think Grandma bought it in some
antique store or something?

DANIEL
(shrugs)
We're here aren't we?

BONNIE-ANN
(getting a bit nervous)
Um, exactly where *is* here?

Daniel looks out the small window.

DANIEL
There's land off of starboard. I wonder
if it's Saint Mary's.

BONNIE-ANN
Let *me* see.

She puts her face near the wavy glass, only to come face to face with
a grizzled SEAMAN on the other side.

She lets forth a little SCREAM and jumps back from the window.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - DAY

Bonnie-Ann's scream is heard by several other nearby SEAMEN.

DARBY MULLINS, the sailor who caused the scream, backs away from the
window and approaches the bosun, NED WARD.

MULLINS
Mister Ward. There's someone in the
treasure hold.

WARD
...and how would they get there behind
locks and chains, Mister Mullins?

INT. TREASURE HOLD

Bonnie-Ann senses trouble brewing.

BONNIE-ANN
Let's get out of here.

DANIEL
(shrugs)
You're the baby sitter...

Bonnie-Ann unzips her backpack and dumps out the jewelry, Then heads for the mirror. Daniel follows...but....

It is lifeless. No ripple, no bubbling sconces...silence.

BONNIE-ANN
Hey, what's wrong with this thing?

DANIEL
Lemme see.

He tries to poke his hand through but only succeeds in bruising his knuckles.

DANIEL (cont'd)
Qww....

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - DAY

Another sailor steps over to the discussion with Ward and Mullins.

JENKINS
Mullins is right. There's somebody in there,sir. I heard her scream.

WARD
"Her"? Are you dreaming again Mister Jenkins? You know the ship's articles.

JENKINS
See for yourself, sir.

Ward approaches the hold's well-locked hatchway.

INT. TREASURE HOLD - DAY

The rattling of keys and chains is heard on the other side of the door. Bonnie-Ann looks at Daniel, fear in her eyes.

BONNIE-ANN
(nervous)
Daniel, get us out of here...

DANIEL
Hold on a second.

Daniel moves from the mirror over to look out the small starboard window. Finding nothing, he crosses over to the one on the port side.

INSERT DANIEL'S WINDOW P.O.V.

Only a league or so away, the *Adventure Galley* sails behind them on a parallel course. Above it is the WAXING MOON.

BACK TO SCENE

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)
(panicky)
What're you doing?

DANIEL
The moon. It's not full. Remember the inscription? "On full moon's light...?"

The rattling of chains continues at the door. The men will have it open in seconds.

BONNIE-ANN
You mean we're stuck here for a...month?

DANIEL
(calmly)
Just a couple of weeks. The moon's almost new.

BONNIE-ANN
Well, how come we could pass through before?

DANIEL
(shrugs)
It must just stay open for so long at a time.

BONNIE-ANN
(getting hysterical)
Daniel, in two weeks we could be dead!

DANIEL
(confident)
Don't worry about it. Captain Kidd's a friend of mine.

Bonnie-Ann is glaring at Daniel like he is completely insane when...

The hatchway bursts open and a trio of burly marauders enter the hold. They quickly discover Bonnie-Ann cowering in the corner behind Daniel.

WARD

Aye, mister Mullins. It *is* a couple of scrawny stowaways you've flushed out.

Daniel steps forward.

DANIEL
Hi there. uh...we'd like to speak to Captain Ki...

WARD
(interrupts, to Mullins)
...You know what to do.

Ward turns and exits as Mullins grabs Daniel and Jenkins grabs Bonnie-Ann.

MULLINS
Aye sir.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel are brusksly hustled on deck.

BONNIE-ANN
Ow! You're hurting...

DANIEL
Listen. Guys. You don't understand here.
We just need to see...

Mullins lifts Daniel, hoists him over his head, and tosses him overboard!

At that moment, however, Captain Kidd has come on deck, just in time to glimpse and recognize Daniel as he is being catapulted through the air.

DANIEL (cont'd)
...Captain Kiiiiiid!!

Bonnie-Ann SCREAMS as Daniel hits the water with a SPLASH.

BONNIE-ANN
(hysterical)
You big jerk! That's my brother! He's gonna freaking drown!

MULLINS
(snarls at Bonnie-Ann)
This is what becomes of stowaways.

Before the same fate can become of Bonnie-Ann, Kidd quickly steps over to the fray. He is closely followed by his steward apprentice, GABRIEL LOFFE, a handsome young man of fifteen.

KIDD
(shouts)

What in thunder comes over your mangy
soul, Mister Mullins? Mister Loffe,
throw a line to that young man.

Gabriel quickly scrambles and tosses a rope to the sputtering Daniel.
Upon doing so his eyes briefly meet those of Bonnie-Ann. A brief "be
brave" smile flickers on his lips.

GABRIEL
He'll be all right, Miss.

Daniel grabs the line and is pulled, gasping and spitting, back onto
the deck.

KIDD
(chuckles)
Aye Prophet Daniel! Returned to us ye
have. As good as your word I see.
(then, fiercely)
Mister Mullins, and Mister Jenkins. I'll
not have hands laid on this boy again.
Is that understood?

JENKINS
Aye, sir. but ye knows ship's
articles...no children and no...
(looks at Bonnie-Ann)
...women on board, especially them
of...loose character, sir.

Feeling completely self-conscious all of a sudden, Bonnie-Ann looks
down at her exposed tummy and quickly undoes her tied-up shirt tail to
cover more of her blushing skin.

Kidd takes note of Bonnie-Ann.

KIDD
(to Daniel)
And might this be that sister ye spoke
of Prophet Daniel?

Daniel is wringing the water out of his own shirt.

DANIEL
Yes sir.

KIDD
(sternly to the men)
If this here girl be kin to Daniel, to
blazes with ship's articles I say.
Passengers and guests they be of Captain
William Kidd, to be sure. Them that
would cross them crosses me.

The gathered crew looks on with suspicion. But it doesn't last long as
suddenly a LOUD CALL comes from aloft:

LOOKOUT

Ship ahoy! At anchor in the harbor off
port bow.

KIDD
The glass, Gabriel!

Gabriel rushes Kidd's telescope to him. Peering through, Kidd sees:

INSERT - SPYGLASS VIEW: ST. MARY'S HARBOR - DAY

A SHIP is anchored near the small coastal settlement.

BACK TO SCENE

KIDD
The *Mocha Frigat* she is.

JENKINS
Culliford!

KIDD
Aye. That was swine I were smellin'.

He looks at Daniel.

DANIEL
I told you so, didn't I, Captain?

Kidd hands the spyglass to Daniel.

KIDD
That, ye did, Prophet Daniel.

EXT. DECK OF THE *MOCHA FRIGAT* - DAY

A pirate deck hand, CHAUNCY WILKS approaches a lounging and unshaven
CAPTAIN ROBERT CULLIFORD who is attired in dirty finery.

WILKS
(breathless)
It's Kidd sir! Two ships.

CULLIFORD
The devil never sleeps. How many guns?

WILKS
More than fifty, sir.

CULLIFORD
The damnable strutting peacock!...More
than four-to-one!

WILKS
What shall we do, sir?

CULLIFORD

(cavalierly)

The only thing a thinking man *could*
do...make a run for it.

(shouting to the crew)

Lower the boats. Abandon ship! All
ashore or prepare to meet your Maker.

The crew of PIRATES begin to scramble.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - DAY

Daniel is peering through the glass.

INSERT SPYGLASS VIEW: ST. MARY'S HARBOR - DAY

The pirates are scattering like scared rabbits from the anchored ship.
Some are in boats. Some are swimming, others are already on the beach,
scampering inland.

BACK TO SCENE

DANIEL

What a bunch of chickens! They're all
jumping ship and running ashore.

BONNIE-ANN

So much for your macho pirate types.

Another call comes from aloft, slightly startling Bonnie-Ann.

LOOKOUT

Ships ahoy! Three sails astern off
starboard!

Kidd takes the glass again.

INSERT SPYGLASS VIEW: OPEN SEA - DAY

Three large WARSHIPS sail together as a majestic flotilla enters the
mouth of the harbor.

BACK TO SCENE

KIDD

All English.

(puts the glass down)

The flagship flies the royal colors.

GABRIEL

Captain Warren sir?

KIDD

Aye, him only could it be. Between the devil and the loving arms of an octopus we stand.

WARD

He may be the arm of the crown, but he's more trouble than he's worth. I say we hoist the quarantine flag for yellow fever and scare the bugger off.

JENKINS

Mr. Ward's right, Cap'n.

KIDD

What say ye, Prophet Daniel?

DANIEL

I can understand why you're not crazy about Captain Warren. He tried to use his muscle to steal your crew once...but you snuck away before he could get away with it.

KIDD

(laughs)

Aye, that I did. Pretending to be full of rum...rowed away while he slept, we did...

DANIEL

...but he's bringing a message from the King. I think you better listen to him.

KIDD

(turns)

Mister Ward, Signal the *Adventure Galley* and drop anchor. Prepare to greet His Majesty's ships.

WARD

But Cap'n...

KIDD

(nearly shouting)

You have your orders mister Ward.

WARD

Aye, sir.

(then, to the crew)

Strike sail!

EXT.- MONTAGE - *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - DAY

Anchor is dropped, sails hoisted, lines made fast as the crew secures the ship in the harbor.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - DAY

KIDD

Mister Ward, assemble the men.

WARD

Aye sir.

The signal is rung on the ships bell.

WARD (cont'd)

(loudly)

All on deck! Captain's orders. All hands.

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel watch as the diverse crewmen make their way to the main deck. They vary from burly ENGLISHMEN to AFRICANS with tribal markings to dark MOORISH LOOKING CHAPS with turbans...a rough looking group.

DANIEL

(to Bonnie-Ann)

...and I thought *your* friends were scary looking.

Bonnie-Ann is giving her brother a scowl when she is suddenly forced to step aside to avoid getting run over by a passing AFRICAN CREWMAN with more piercings and tribal markings than a side show.

Bonnie-Ann looks at him then back down in humiliation at her own puny little belly button ring.

From the poopdeck Kidd addresses the group:

KIDD

As ye all know, we'll be puttin' in here at St. Mary's for repairs and supplies. Off our bow, however, lies the *Mocha Frigat*, the criminal vessel of Captain Robert Culliford and his covey of craven freebooting dogs. Some of you, no doubt, have more than a passing familiarity with this man.

Crewman Palmer casts a sly wink to ROBERT BRADINHAM, ship's greasy-looking surgeon.

KIDD (cont'd)

Having spied our vessels, he and his cowardly crew have abandoned ship and gone a hiding inland. The *Mocha Frigat* and all its plunder, being un-manned, are ripe for our taking.

Crewman Palmer steps forward.

PALMER

(cynical)

Excuse me, Cap'n. But why should we risk our necks taking the ship of our brother seamen, which may or may not contain purchase, when you refuse to divide the goods aboard this very vessel what we've hence already taken?

From the assembly comes a murmuring growl of agreement with Palmer's question.

KIDD

(face growing red)

"Why", Mister Palmer? I'll remind you of the royal charter of this voyage: "to rid these seas of the scourge of piracy and to plunder the enemies of England"...Or might I take from your words, Mister Palmer that you might be leanin' more sympathetic to the criminals than to His Majesty's charter?

Palmer is silent, but stares resolutely into Kidd's eyes.

KIDD (cont'd)

In addition, might I draw your attention astern to the three warships of His Majesty's navy.

All eyes turn to Warren's flotilla. A longboat is being rowed from them toward Kidd's ships.

Captain WARREN, a spit-and-polish gentleman of the Royal Navy cuts a dignified silhouette as his longboat approaches Kidd's two anchored vessels.

KIDD (cont'd)

Captain Thomas Warren is His Majesty's emissary and has the direct ear of the crown. For all our sakes you dogs will each behave before Captain Warren as you would before the the king himself.

EXT. LONGBOAT APPROACHING THE *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - DAY

Warren looks up to the SAILORS in the rigging of Kidd's ship.

The ROWDY CREWMEN aloft in the shrouds of the *Adventure Galley*, upon catching Warren's glimpse, return a "salute" of slapping and wiggling their backsides in his direction, then turning and laughing with each other.

Warren is less than impressed.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - DAY

Bonnie-Ann tries to keep a straight face at the sailors' antics, but a snicker erupts. She covers her mouth and turns her attention as:

Captain Warren comes aboard the *Quedagh Merchant*. He is accompanied by two tall and starchy Royal Navy SAILORS.

WARREN

(sternly, to Kidd)

Greetings to you Captain Kidd. I see your crew is as gentlemanly as ever.

KIDD

(obsequious)

A dirty crew for a dirty job, Captain Warren, sir. You can have your pick of them as ever as it please you, sir.

WARREN

That won't be necessary, Kidd. I come here bringing news from the crown that I trust you will see fit to spread to all with which you have contact. His Eminence the Grand Mogul is impatient with the situation of lawlessness in these waters. The pirates seem to grow ever bolder in their nefarious acts.

KIDD

Aye, that they do, sir.

WARREN

In order to satisfy His Eminence and to protect the shipments of his Majesty and the East India company, His Majesty is most interested in putting an end to the reign of piracy on these seas.

KIDD

That, we all are, sir. Why this vessel...

WARREN

(interrupting)

In addition to the efforts of valiant men like yourself, His Majesty now proclaims...

(a bit louder, to the crew)

...the offer of a full king's pardon for any pirate who will forswear their acts of piracy and return to a lawful life in England.

The assembled crew immediately breaks into full blown LAUGHTER. Crewman Palmer speaks up.

PALMER

(laughing)

Where's the profit in *that*, sir?

Warren turns angry.

WARREN (cont'd)
I fail to see the humor in the
situation, Captain Kidd.

KIDD
(shouts at the crew)
Silence, you bellowing hyenas!

WARREN
(to the group)
The only thing worth laughing about will
be each and every cursed pirate doing
the hangman's jig from a gibbet at
execution dock.
(aside, to Kidd, impatient)
It's a rough crew you sail with Captain
Kidd. I advise you to control them or
you'll find yourself on the wrong side
of the Crown's graces. Good day sir.

With that, Captain Warren turns to depart.

KIDD
(sugary, to Warren's back)
Good day, Captain. Heeding your words
we'll be, to be sure.

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel, still observing from the sidelines, huddle.

BONNIE-ANN
(whispers)
What's with the kiss up? I didn't think
Captain Kidd'd be afraid of anybody.

Daniel is silent. This is a different side of his hero that he is
seeing.

KIDD
(angry)
Mister Ward, there will be eight lashes
for each of those insubordinate apes in
the rigging. Entire company to witness
punishment at six bells. Mister Arris:
prepare a crew for careening and re-
fitting. Gabriel: see to it that our
passengers are taken care of. Company
dismissed.

Kidd turns and disappears into his quarters.

The crew disperses and returns to their work, grumbling.

Gabriel turns to Daniel and Bonnie-Ann.

GABRIEL

I'm Gabriel Loffe, apprentice servant to
the Captain.

BONNIE-ANN

Bonnie-Ann. Good to meet you.

She sticks out her hand. Rather than shaking it, Gabriel gently bows
to touch his forehead to it. Bonnie-Ann is a bit taken aback. Daniel
seeks to interrupt.

DANIEL

Don't get carried away, Bonnie-Ann, it's
just a custom.

(to Gabriel)

I'm Daniel...Daniel Stevenson.

But it's too late. Sparks are starting to fly between the other two.

GABRIEL

How do you do.

He shakes Daniel's hand.

BONNIE-ANN

(making conversation)

ummm...can you show us the rest of the
ship?

GABRIEL

Yes,m. But only until the Captain needs
me.

The three begin to stroll the length of the deck.

BONNIE-ANN

He...the captain's not really gonna flog
those men is he?

GABRIEL

Yes'm. Only it'll be Mr. Hawks, there,
the ship's blacksmith, who'll be
executing punishment.

Bonnie-Ann's eyes widen as she observes the massive dark hulk of
ELIJAH HAWKS hammering a metal fitting.

BONNIE-ANN

How...un-civilized.

Daniel interjects himself again.

DANIEL

No, it's very civilized.
If the Captain can't keep control of the
men, everyone on the ship is in danger.

At this point, Bonnie-Ann takes things into her own hands. She pulls
Gabriel aside and WHISPERS something in his ear.

Gabriel nods in assent.

GABRIEL
As you wish, Miss.

Gabriel approaches Daniel and hands him the spyglass.

GABRIEL (cont'd)
Mister Daniel. It would please us if you
could see your way to return this
spyglass to its owner, Captain Kidd.

Daniel gets the picture.

DANIEL
Okay okay, I get it.

Dejectedly he takes the spyglass and heads aft while Bonnie-Ann and Gabriel continue strolling toward the bow.

Bonnie-Ann keeps the conversation going.

BONNIE-ANN
So what put you on this boat?

GABRIEL
Me? Oh...I sailed with the *Adventure Galley* from New York. My father died over a year ago and my mother couldn't support us. I knew I'd eventually be conscripted...

BONNIE-ANN
Conscripted?

GABRIEL
...into the navy...but there came word that Captain Kidd was in port and in need of fresh crew. So I signed on with him in hopes of better pay...maybe send some home to Mother.

BONNIE-ANN
But didn't you know that you'd be dealing with pirates and...who knows what?

GABRIEL
(shrugs)
I guess a man does what he has to do. I serve my duty...and leave the rest to Providence.

Bonnie-Ann looks up ahead. A spark of an idea lights up in her eyes.

BONNIE-ANN
Hey, c'mon. I want to try something.

Nearing the ships bow, she dashes out as far forward she can and spreads her arms out as if to fly out to sea. Gabriel steadies her.

GABRIEL

Careful Miss. What are you doing?

BONNIE-ANN

Oh, something I saw in a movie once.

Meanwhile, farther aft, Daniel sits on a barrel in an out-of-the-way place, spyglass in hand, watching his sister with her outstretched arms. He rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

Turning his attention elsewhere, Daniel brings the glass to his eye and watches as Warren's flotilla of ships, having turned about, sail once again toward the open sea and recede into the distance.

Daniel's attention shifts again, however, as he overhears several nearby sailors' hushed conversation:

PALMER

A year and six and not a penny for any of us. Now we're sittin' on the bloody crown jewels and not a finger can we lay.

JENKINS

I'd rather sail with Culliford. Risk the gallows maybe, but at least ye signs on for equal shares.

BRADINHAM

You heard what Warren said. The King's offering pardons. I say sign on for equal shares, *then* take the bleedin' pardon. A bloke could die a bloody rich gentleman, sez I.

PALMER

Amen to that, Mate. Listen; I say we bring it to Kidd like this...he breaks bulk and distributes shares *now*...or we sail with Culliford.

The others heartily agree in quite vocal terms.

JENKINS-BRADINHAM

Aye! You said it, Mate. (etc.)

PALMER (cont'd)

(whispering)

Keep it quiet you blokes! Now pass it on, we're gonna march right up to Kidd and...

Daniel has heard enough. He slips away while the men hatch their plans and makes a bee line for the captain's quarters.

INT. KIDD'S QUARTERS - DAY

Kidd busies himself scratching with a quill into the ship's log.

A KNOCK comes on his door.

KIDD
(not looking up)
Yes, what is it?

The door opens and Daniel peeks in.

DANIEL
Captain Kidd, sir. I'm returning this to
you.

He offers the collapsed spyglass in Kidd's direction.

KIDD
(still writing)
Put it on the table, lad.

Daniel complies, then remains a moment, nervous.

KIDD (cont'd)
...anything else?

DANIEL
Sir I think you should know...that is I
kind of overheard...

KIDD
(impatient)
Out with it, Lad.

DANIEL
I believe the men are plotting a mutiny,
sir.

KIDD
(sighs, looks up)
Aye, that wouldn't surprise me even a
little, Prophet Daniel. The pack of
belly-crawling wharf rats...

DANIEL
What are you going to do, sir?

A loud KNOCK comes on the door. Kidd looks at Daniel, then rises and
straps on his sword.

KIDD
(somber)
What *can* I do, Prophet Daniel?

He checks his pistols and opens the door.

On the other side are gathered thirty or so MEN all sternly facing him.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - DAY

Kidd steps out to face the mob. The air is tense.

KIDD
And what would be the meaning of this,
Mister Palmer?

Mister Palmer steps forward.

PALMER
The crew would have it that shares be
divided, Captain.

KIDD
And how would the crew discuss violating
the commission of this voyage with the
hangman at Wapping?

PALMER
He can stay in Wapping. We've done our
part in this proposition and by rights
expects to be paid.

KIDD
Or else what?

Bradinham speaks up.

BRADINHAM
There's other ships in these parts,
ships what divides shares with their
crews.

Gabriel and Bonnie-Ann have wandered aft to observe the confrontation.
They look on from the sidelines.

KIDD
Oh so now it's desertion is it? Listen
here, all of you.

He draws his sword.

KIDD (cont'd)
Thems that sails with me sails with
duty, king and country on their side.
And any that leaves this ship except
under my orders will never return to her
except as prisoners of His Majesty King
William.

PALMER
Aye and choose we will, then, all of
us.

The mob of assembled men murmur their agreement loudly. Kidd plunges the point of his sword to the deck.

KIDD

(shouts)

All who would do their duty and stand with me, join me here now. And any who would desert, let him stand with Palmer.

No one makes a move. There is a moment of tense silence.

Daniel, of all people, makes the first move. He steps forward to stand at Kidd's side.

DANIEL

I'm with you, Captain.

Bonnie-Ann rushes forward as if to protect him.

BONNIE-ANN

(hushed)

Daniel, what are you doing?

JENKINS

We didn't sign on for a captain what puts his faith in stowaway children. I'm with Palmer.

This is followed with an angry chorus of "Me too's".

KIDD

That's the way it'll be is it?

(shouts)

All right the rest of you dogs...CHOOSE you now!

There is brief silence. Then one man joins Kidd, then another.

But many others line up silently behind Palmer.

Gabriel joins Kidd, and a few others--thirteen in all.

The rest, dozens of men, stand with Palmer.

Again, silence reigns as the reshuffled group waits to see what Kidd will do.

KIDD (cont'd)

So be it.

With that Kidd turns and disappears into his quarters.

Then, as the assembled faithful look on, the remainder of the crew breaks into scurrying chaos as they prepare to desert ship:

Personal possessions are gathered, boats are lowered, and many run to and fro like newly-freed slaves.

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel cling to each other as they look on at the scurrying frenzy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ST. MARY'S HARBOR - NIGHT

The *Quedagh Merchant* and the *Adventure Galley* rock gently at anchor in the quickly-fading twilight.

INT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - CREW QUARTERS - NIGHT

Gabriel is showing Bonnie-Ann and Daniel around.

GABRIEL

You're welcome to any bunk you'd like.
There seems to be plenty of them now.

Daniel inspects the empty hammock-bunks. They're pretty spartan.

BONNIE-ANN

Gabriel, what's the captain going to do?

GABRIEL

He's a strong man, Miss.

BONNIE-ANN

You can call me Bonnie-Ann.

GABRIEL

Bonnie-Ann...

(then)

A year ago, near Mehila, we lost more
than fifty men to the yellow fever. But
Captain Kidd still got us to Madagascar.

Gabriel goes about tidying up his own bunk and gear nearby.

BONNIE-ANN

He must be quite a navigator.

GABRIEL

And where did you say it was you hailed
from, Miss?

Bonnie-Ann is un-sure what she should say.

BONNIE-ANN

Uh...

DANIEL

(interrupts)

...Atlantis. We come from the city of
Atlantis.

GABRIEL

(surprised)

I thought Atlantis was only a legend.

DANIEL

Well, we keep it a secret, so all the technology and stuff we invented doesn't get mis-used.

BONNIE-ANN

(helping out)

Uh...Yeah! How do you think Daniel learned how to tell the future?

Daniel smiles at his sister.

GABRIEL

I'm sure I should like to hear the stories of your homeland and your voyage.

They are interrupted by SAMUEL ARRIS, ship steward who enters with messages:

ARRIS

Mister Loffe, the captain requires you.

GABRIEL

Right away sir.

ARRIS

Mister Daniel, Miss Bonnie-Ann, the captain invites you to his quarters for dinner in ten minutes.

GABRIEL

(aside, to Bonnie-Ann)

As Providence would have it, mister Owens, the ship's cook, is one of us who stayed with the captain.

He exits with Arris, giving Bonnie-Ann a smile.

When they are alone, Bonnie-Ann turns to Daniel:

BONNIE-ANN

Atlantis?

Daniel shrugs sheepishly.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - NIGHT

The deck is quiet as Bonnie-Ann and Daniel emerge from below decks, headed towards the captain's quarters which glow with golden lantern light.

Daniel pauses briefly, observing the flickering lights and a bonfire on shore.

BONNIE-ANN

..and he's just so polite. I've never really met a guy that makes me feel so... Hey, what are you looking at?

DANIEL

I dunno, I just got a funny feeling about those guys who deserted.

BONNIE-ANN

(mock shiver)

You and me both. Come on. I'm hungry.

INT. KIDD'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

A ladle full of greyish glop is bestowed on Bonnie-Ann's bowl by a pleased Gabriel as Daniel looks on. Kidd is busy eating already.

BONNIE-ANN

(whispers, to Gabriel)

What is it?

GABRIEL

(grins)

Turtle, Miss. Caught fresh this afternoon.

Gabriel moves on to serve some of the stuff to Daniel as Bonnie-Ann turns her attention to some of the other fare on the table.

All she finds is a bowl full of "biscuits". She takes one and attempts to take a bite.

BONNIE-ANN

Ow!

She bangs the thing on the table. It's tough as a hockey puck.

Kidd looks on in amusement but silently busies himself with his own meal, washing it down with generous amounts of beer.

Bonnie-Ann looks at Daniel, who proceeds to demonstrate how to dip and soak the "biscuit" in the soup to soften it up. He then takes a bite.

DANIEL

(mouth full)

It's hard tack, Bonnie-Ann. Ya gotta soften it up before you attack it.

Bonnie-Ann does the same. She brightens up.

BONNIE-ANN

Hey, this is pretty good!

KIDD

And now, Prophet Daniel. What say ye of our future?

DANIEL

What do you mean, Captain?

KIDD

A pickle it is we find ourselves in. We sit on a treasure prize worthy of the king himself and not enough men to bring her home. Think you those deserting mutinous dogs may have their point?

BONNIE-ANN

I don't know about Daniel, sir. But I sure know what it's like when friends desert you.

(shrugs)

Sometimes you just have to go along with them to stay popular.

A beat.

Daniel gives Bonnie-Ann a blank stare for acting like such an airhead. He tries to ignore her.

DANIEL

(to Kidd)

Now let me get this straight. You're thinking that maybe Palmer and Culliford and the boys are right, that being a hunted outlaw and a pirate is better than doing your duty?

KIDD

What profit is it to a man to be sailin' the straight and narrow? The *Adventure Galley* was to be my prize at the close of this voyage. Now she's leakin' like a sponge and not worth much to any man...

He downs another draft from his tankard.

DANIEL

Captain, don't even think about putting in with those low-lives. They're gonna get theirs, believe me.

KIDD

(chuckles, groggily)

Aye, its you what knows the future, Lad.

Kidd drains the last from his tankard.

Suddenly a thought hits Daniel and a dark cloud passes over his expression.

DANIEL

(to himself)

Yeah...yeah I do...

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - NIGHT

The *Quedagh Merchant* sleeps in the moonlight. Silence reigns in the harbor.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Aboard the ship all is peaceful. Even the WATCHMAN has his hands folded over his chest in slumber.

Silently, a couple of LONGBOATS slip alongside the ship and half a dozen PIRATES begin to stealthily clamber aboard, knives in their teeth.

Once on deck, they head straight for the treasure hold.

To their delight and amazement, the lock on the chain holding the door has not been completely closed.

PALMER

(grinning, under his breath)
..and look at that! The devil takes care
of his own.

Some of the others cackle their assent.

Palmer makes quick work of undoing the lock and chain. He begins to open the hatch door when...

The doors explode open and Kidd with his men, armed to the teeth, pour out. Kidd fires his pistols in the air. To the rear of the group, even Gabriel and Daniel wield small swords. Bonnie-Ann crouches behind Gabriel.

KIDD

So that's the way it's to be, ye craven
cowards? If it's treasure you want, a
ball of lead can send you to the devil
to fetch it.

Not much fighting is necessary, however, as the outnumbered pirates scramble to escape.

They all head to the rail, some climbing, some diving. Palmer turns to address Kidd before he goes over:

PALMER

Mind your time, Captain Kidd. We'll be
back. Next time with greater numbers.

Upon saying this, Palmer drops into the longboat.

With the last of the pirates departed, there is elation aboard the *Quedagh Merchant*. Daniel high-fives Bonnie-Ann. Then Bonnie-Ann smooches a shocked Gabriel.

KIDD

(smiles)
Aye, it were just like you said it would
be, Prophet Daniel.

DANIEL
I don't think they'll be back tonight.
But he wasn't kidding about their
numbers.

BONNIE-ANN
What're we gonna do?

GABRIEL
Don't you worry, Miss. Captain Kidd'll
take care of things.

KIDD
(serious)
Aye.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KIDD'S QUARTERS - SUNRISE

The glow of the rising sun is seen out the open port as dawn begins to stream into Kidd's cabin. The captain sleeps with a pistol in one hand and a sword in the other across his chest.

A distant VOICE is heard calling:

VOICE (O.S.)
Captain Kidd!

Kidd comes sputtering to consciousness.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - SUNRISE

Kidd exits his cabin to see what the call is. Bonnie-Ann, Daniel, Gabriel, and several of the others are already on deck.

KIDD
What the devil...?

GABRIEL
It's someone in a small boat, Captain.

Sure enough, they all look out to see a single pirate, Chauncy Wilks, sitting in a rowboat, fifty yards from the ship.

WILKS
(calling)
Captain Kidd!

KIDD
(shouts)
Who calls for him?

WILKS

A message from Captain Culliford.

KIDD

Out with it, then!

Wilks stands up and heaves a small, cloth-wrapped bundle over to the *Quedagh Merchant*. Bonnie-Ann catches it.

Wilks then turns his boat about and rows away.

Bonnie-Ann hands the package to Kidd, who unwraps it.

Inside there is a folded piece of parchment which reads:

KIDD (cont'd)

(reading)

A meeting of minds. Six bells. The
Malagasy Alehouse. Come alone. Signed,
Robert Culliford.

DANIEL

Don't go, Captain, at least not alone.

KIDD

There you're wrong for once, Prophet
Daniel. With all the deserters,
Culliford outnumbers us eight to one. If
I remain, the blackguards'll sack us
later or sooner. If I goes...well, maybe
there be articles to sign...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - DAY

In a small boat, Kidd rows away from the *Quedagh Merchant* toward shore.

On deck, Bonnie-Ann, Gabriel and Daniel watch him go.

BONNIE-ANN

What do you think's gonna happen?

DANIEL

I'm not sure I want to know.

GABRIEL

There's one way to find out.

BONNIE-ANN

How?

GABRIEL

Come on.

He leads Bonnie-Ann and Daniel to the *Quedagh Merchant's* far rail.

Looking down, Bonnie-Ann and Daniel spot the object of Gabriel's confidence: another small boat tied to the ship.

GABRIEL (cont'd)
Our chariot awaits.

BONNIE-ANN
What if the Captain sees us?

DANIEL
So we give him a few minutes.

GABRIEL
Once he's ashore, then we set out.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Kidd beaches his boat, jumps out and pulls it ashore near the somewhat ramshackle small settlement at St.Mary's harbor.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - DAY

The other small boat peaks out from behind the bow of the *Quedagh Merchant*. Gabriel is rowing gently, tentatively. Bonnie-Ann and Daniel are his passengers and his lookouts.

BONNIE-ANN
The coast is clear. Let's go.

Gabriel puts his back into it and rows boldly for shore.

EXT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - DAY

"English Tropical" would be how the pirate hangout is described. The crude SIGN out front is nowhere near as crude as the clientele inside as evidenced by the rowdy NOISES emanating from within.

INT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - SAME

A couple of dozen MEN and a handful of Malagasy WOMEN servers go about their rum-laced bachannal.

In one corner, flanked by two Malagasy beauties a confident and boisterous Robert Culliford holds court.

Suddenly the doorway is darkened by a SILHOUETTE.

The place goes quiet as Captain Kidd steps into the room.

EXT. BEACH - SAME

Bonnie-Ann and the boys are pulling their boat ashore. Nearby lies the *Mocha Frigat*, while Kidd's two ships are at anchor peacefully in the harbor beyond.

The threesome head into town.

INT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - SAME

Culliford is putting down his tankard after taking a long draught. A gurgling BELCH issues from his lips and one of the women on his arm giggles.

Kidd comments from near the door:

KIDD

Genteel and refined as ever Mister Culliford?

CULLIFORD

Ah, Captain Kidd. So nice of you to join us.

KIDD

Well...Get to it, man.

CULLIFORD

(coy)

I'm very well thank you...Come, come, Captain. Join us in a tankard. Show us some of that sharp wit of yours.

KIDD

I'll keep me wits about me for now if you don't mind.

EXT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - SAME

Bonnie-Ann, Daniel, and Gabriel approach and crouch beneath a window to listen to the proceedings.

INT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - SAME

CULLIFORD

Very well, then. You leave me no choice but to get right to the point: Let's examine the situation, shall we? On your ship you have treasure. We, those you see before you, would like to share that treasure. Further, we outnumber you by substantial odds. Sooner or later, then, we shall have that treasure.

KIDD

It's threats you make, then.

CULLIFORD

Oh, Captain. Don't be so crude. It's a proposal I bring to you: Join us! Our numbers are bold. With your talents and mine together we can sweep the seas of all the gold a man could covet.

KIDD

(laughs)

My fine gentlemen-to-be: What good be treasure if there's a noose waiting for you in every port where there's something worth spending it on? But Aye, Mister Culliford...

(chuckles)

I am with you more than you know. Like brothers we are, Lads. All of us want nothing more than to pluck the choicest plums from the green seas.

Daniel, crouching below the window, raises an eyebrow at these words.

KIDD (cont'd)

But Lads...I have the *King* on my side. Listen you one and all: Help me to get the *Quedah Merchant* to Boston and there'll be shares enough for every man to be his own king...and with full approval of King William himself.

There is derisive laughter from the room.

CULLIFORD

Ah, "tomorrow" then is it? What say you to those of us who would drink of life's bounty *today*?

EXT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - INTERCUT

Daniel looks at Bonnie-Ann.

DANIEL

Hey, he sounds like you, Bonnie-Ann.

She scowls.

INT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - INTERCUT

An indignant Kidd replies:

KIDD

(angry)

Drink on, then. You'll not want to be sober when the hangman's trap is sprung.

More laughter.

KIDD (cont'd)
Burn your fires bright I say, all of
you, for they won't burn long.

CULLIFORD
(almost chokes, laughing)
As you wish Captain! Behold a very
bright one indeed...

The window shutters are flung open to reveal the burning hulk of the
Adventure Galley in the harbor.

EXT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - SAME

Bonnie-Ann, Daniel and Gabriel turn their attention seaward as well.

GABRIEL
(gasps)
The *Adventure Galley*! They've torched
her!

DANIEL
Worse than that. Look at the *Quedagh*!

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* - SAME

A dozen small boats encircle the ship, with pirates scrambling up to
her deck.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK* - SAME

The LOCK that secures the treasure hold is being brutally pounded with
the end of a heavy timber until it can hold no more and shatters under
the blows.

The door to the treasure hold is heaved open and pirates swarm into
and about it like bees.

INT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - SAME

KIDD
Ye craven boil-brained hyenas!

CULLIFORD
You see, Captain, we were afraid you'd
not come to see things our way, so we
took precautions...take him!

With that, several of the pirates draw their weapons, surrounding
Kidd. Thus overwhelmed, they disarm the captain, relieving him of his
pistol and his sword.

CULLIFORD (cont'd)
Lock him up.

The mob of pirates hustles Kidd outside.

EXT. THE MALAGASY ALEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kidd is hurried away, leaving the youthful trio behind, gaping.

BONNIE-ANN
(serious)
This isn't fun any more.

GABRIEL
Come on, we'll follow them.

Gabriel sets off behind the pirates and Kidd. Bonnie-Ann and Daniel look at each other and reluctantly follow.

BONNIE-ANN
(to Daniel)
How are we gonna get home?

DANIEL
Gabriel's right. We gotta free Captain Kidd and get back to the *Quedagh* or there's no getting back at all.

EXT. ST. MARY'S STREET - DAY

The pirates take Kidd to one of the only stone buildings in the settlement. They shove him inside and step in after him.

Bonnie-Ann, Daniel, and Gabriel look on from behind a nearby stack of barrels. When all the men are inside the building, Bonnie-Ann turns to Gabriel.

BONNIE-ANN
What are they gonna do?

GABRIEL
Shhh...watch.

Bonnie-Ann turns back to see the men exiting the stone building without Kidd. Laughing, one of them locks the door securely, then takes the KEY and brazenly *tosses it away*...

The pirates with him laugh all the more.

...But the key lands in the rain-barrel that Bonnie-Ann is hiding behind. The SPLASH showers cold water down Bonnie-Ann's back.

She begins to let out a little YELP, but quickly covers her mouth to stifle it when she receives glares from the two boys.

The pirates amble off, and the street grows quiet.

Gabriel rises and plunges his arm into the rain-barrel to fish out the key, while Bonnie-Ann removes her back-pack and proceeds to dry it off.

Gabriel pulls the key out of the water and displays it for Bonnie-Ann with a grin.

BONNIE-ANN

Cool!...

(then)

What do we do now?

Just then another trio of PIRATES saunters by. Gabriel ducks back down with Bonnie-Ann and Daniel.

GABRIEL

We wait till it gets dark.

DANIEL

Then what?

Gabriel shrugs. Bonnie-Ann and Daniel sigh and settle in to wait.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ST. MARY'S STREET - NIGHT

The moon is high in the sky. It's not yet full.

We discover Bonnie-Ann and the boys skulking around the stone building where Kidd is being held.

The street is pretty deserted, with lights and noise coming mainly from nearby taverns.

Bonnie-Ann and Gabriel stand watch on one end of the stone building, with Daniel on the other, all leaning against it and looking "innocent".

When the coast is clear, Gabriel approaches the door to unlock it.

But a drunken PIRATE and a tavern WENCH stroll by laughing boisterously.

BONNIE-ANN

Pssst...

Gabriel quickly withdraws.

Once more the street grows quiet. Gabriel once again goes for the lock. He quickly undoes it and opens the door. All three hurry inside and Gabriel closes the door behind them.

INT. STONE STORAGE BUILDING - NIGHT

Amidst a few dusty boxes, barrels, and bottles Kidd is bound hand and foot and gagged.

DANIEL

Captain Kidd!

The threesome quickly set about undoing Kidd's bindings. Daniel removes the gag from his mouth, while Bonnie-Ann and Gabriel go for the hands and feet.

KIDD

(spits)

Aye that 'ere rag must've scoured many a chamber pot. A bold and welcome sight ye all are.

Kidd tosses off the last of the bindings and rises.

DANIEL

We've got to save the *Quedagh*, Captain.

KIDD

Aye and how would you propose doin' that, Prophet Daniel, when there's but four of us and a hundred of them dunderpated louts?

DANIEL

(discouraged)

I was kinda hopin' you'd have an idea, Captain.

EXT. ST. MARY'S STREET - NIGHT

The four approach the waterfront. They look out on the moonlit harbor and the pirate-besieged *Quedagh Merchant*.

GABRIEL

Look at them...swarming all over the ship like a bunch of vultures.

KIDD

Well we ain't got a scarecrow big enough to shoo those bilge-lickin buzzards off, Lad.

BONNIE-ANN

Wait a minute...

Bonnie-Ann is hatching an idea.

GABRIEL

What is it?

DANIEL

(nervous)

I don't like that look in her eye. I've seen it before.

BONNIE-ANN

Oh, you'll like this one, Daniel: now listen...didn't I see some bolts of silk in that building back there where the captain was tied up?

DANIEL
Bonnie-Ann, this is no time to go shopping.

A beat. Bonnie-Ann stares at him impatiently.

DANIEL (cont'd)
(sighs)
Yeah, I guess I saw some sort of cloth in there.

Bonnie-Ann goes back to being perky.

BONNIE-ANN
Come on then, we'd better hurry.

She heads back inland. The boys follow her. Last to fall in is the Captain.

KIDD
(sighs to himself)
And it's come to this...led about now by a lubberly strumpet...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - NIGHT

A dozen or so of the invaders mill about the deck. They are moving more slowly now in their pillaging, as more than one clings to a bottle, raided from the *Quedagh's* stores.

Palmer is leaning against the rail, several gold chains around his neck, hoisting a rum bottle, when his eye catches something out in the water.

He peers more intently into the shadows to discover a rowboat approaching from shore. Standing at its bow is an eerie, motionless FIGURE.

Palmer is a bit confused by the sight.

As the approaching boat drifts closer, we realize that it is a disguised Bonnie-Ann.

Illuminated by a lantern at her feet which casts unearthly shadows across her features, she is draped in flowing ghostly silks that undulate in the wind. With her head wrapped in airy veils and her ring-enhanced midriff bared, she looks like some sort Arabian Nights ectoplasm.

Keeping her eyes mystically closed, she clasps a small ornate chest in her outstretched arms.

The closer she gets, the more strange the sight seems to Palmer.

PALMER
(to Barlicorn)
Get Captain Culliford.

Barlicorn sees the eerie vision too.

BARLICORN
Aye.

He scurries off.

EXT. ROW BOAT - CONTINUOUS

In the back of the boat, a black-robed and hooded Gabriel gently rows toward the *Quedagh*. He whispers over his shoulder to Bonnie-Ann:

GABRIEL
I think they can hear you now...

Bonnie-Ann, now within earshot of the *Quedagh*, begins a ghostly MOAN:

BONNIE-ANN
Captain Cull-i-fooord, Caaaptain Robert
Cull-i-fooooooord...

INT. CAPTAIN'S (KIDD'S) QUARTERS - SAME

Barlicorn bursts in on Culliford who is lazily counting a pile of coins.

BARLICORN
Cap'n Culliford, boat approaching.

CULLIFORD
What?...Who?

Bonnie-Ann's EERIE MOANING can faintly be heard from the cabin.

BARLICORN
(nervous)
You need to see this, Cap'n.

Culliford hurries out.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Palmer is joined by Culliford and Barlicorn at the rail. Several of the others come over with them to gaze out at the approaching "apparition".

CULLIFORD

What the cursed devil is that?

BARLICORN

'Tis a Banshee I think.

The rowboat nears the ship and stops. Bonnie-Ann maintains her ghostly posture, arms still raised, grasping the small chest.

BONNIE-ANN

...Cull-i-ford....Captain Cull-i-ford.

CULLIFORD

(calling from the rail)

What is it? Why do you come to this ship?

BONNIE-ANN

...a gift...a gift I bring for Captain Cull-i-ford...

CULLIFORD

What kind of gift? Who sends it?

Bonnie-Ann stands silently, her arms remaining outstretched with the "gift".

CULLIFORD (cont'd)

Well?

No response. She stares off into space.

The pirates look at each other.

WILKS

What now, Captain?

Culliford swallows, looks around at the similarly frightened faces about him.

CULLIFORD

Get a net, fish the blasted thing up here.

One of the men gets a long pole that has a small fishing net on the end and extends it shakily down to Bonnie-Ann's hands.

She carefully places the box in the net and then kneels gracefully, eyes down, in the boat, becoming motionless once more.

Gabriel brings the boat about and rows silently off into the night.

The pirates bring the little chest on board, handing it to Culliford who begins examining it.

PALMER

What is the blasted thing?

CULLIFORD

Stand back all of you.

He takes the gift over to a nearby table and sets it down. The pirates encircle it. There is a large lock holding the small box closed.

WILKS

Look at the lock on it.

CULLIFORD

Get Hawks, the blacksmith. He'll have it open in...

Suddenly the small chest springs to life, emanating the BOOMING VOICE of one William Kidd:

KIDD (V.O.)

Deserters, mutineers, rum-sodded blackguards ye be!

CULLIFORD

What the blazing devilry is this...?

KIDD (V.O.)

(continues)

Beware all for the sins ye have committed against William Kidd. Beware I say! For dawn shall not rise lest each and every mutinous cur be wakened with his throat slit from ear to ear.

WILKS

(shaking)

It...it's Kidd. He speaks from the box.

PALMER

It's a specter I say.

All of the pirates instinctively back away from the curse-spouting chest.

KIDD (V.O.)

(continues)

Woe be to ye all: mutineers and defilers of the king's property!

EXT. ST. MARY'S WATERFRONT - CONTINUOUS

In the shadows near the water, Daniel holds Bonnie-Ann's small yellow Walkie Talkie to Kidd's mouth, grinning. Kidd continues his rant:

KIDD

Death and drowning be too good for ye!
Davy Jones awaits every bilious rat with cold poisoned arms...

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Culliford himself is sweating profusely. He crosses himself as the voice of Kidd continues to emanate from the box.

KIDD (V.O.)

Black, pox-ridden death to those that
remain aboard my ship...Mark these words
all ye...

WILKS

It's a wicked spirit I say. We'll all be
dead men.

He quickly heads to the rail and begins to abandon ship.

PALMER

No loot is worth this...

He and others follow Wilks over the rail, descending to the small
boats moored there.

EXT. ST. MARY'S WATERFRONT - CONTINUOUS

Bonnie-Ann and Gabriel pull their rowboat ashore and join Daniel and
Kidd. Bonnie-Ann removes the silk wrappings as she walks, revealing
her normal clothing underneath. They look back out at the moored ship.

GABRIEL

Look at them. It's just like you
said...fleeing the ship like rats.

BONNIE-ANN

(giggles)
Were we good or what?

DANIEL

Shhh...watch this.

Kidd continues. He's enjoying it.

KIDD

Leave this ship I say! Flee, ye
cravenous yellow-livered spawn of the
devil! BE GONE I SAY!!!

With this the ship practically explodes with fleeing pirates jumping
overboard like bursting fireworks. Kidd and the others roar with
laughter at the sight.

Daniel takes the Walkie Talkie from Kidd's lips.

DANIEL

Mission accomplished.

KIDD (cont'd)

(chuckling)

Aye, Prophet Daniel, these here talking
boxes ye brings from Atlantis did the
deed as well as a deed could be did.

Daniel hands the Walkie Talkie to Bonnie-Ann who returns it to her
back-pack.

BONNIE-ANN
What'd I tell ya?

KIDD
That you did, Lass. Let it never be said
that William Kidd were bereft of
gratitude: There'll be *double shares* I
say for yourself, Gabriel, and Prophet
Daniel!

GABRIEL

(grins)
I'm sure my mother will be more than
pleased, Captain.

DANIEL

(smiles, then remembers:)
Oh, That's uh...wonderful, Captain...and
very generous...Unfortunately we can't
take any of your gold back with us..But
we'll be grateful just to be able to get
home again.

BONNIE-ANN
Hey, speak for yourself, Daniel. I kinda
like it here.

She hugs Gabriel and gives him a kiss on the cheek as Daniel sighs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ST. MARY'S HARBOR - SUNRISE

Dawn finds Kidd, Gabriel, Bonnie-Ann, and Daniel in a longboat,
approaching the quiet *Quedagh Merchant*. Gabriel rows as the others
examine for damage.

KIDD
Steady as she goes, Lad.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - SUNRISE

The foursome clamber aboard, climbing up a rope ladder and over the
rail to the deck.

The place is a bit of a wreck. Empty rum bottles and liquid spills
cover the deck along with splatterings of coins and other treasures
dropped and abandoned during the plunderers' hasty retreat.

BONNIE-ANN

Looks like the place could use a woman's touch.

DANIEL

Doesn't look too different from *your* room to me, Bonnie-Ann.

BONNIE-ANN

Very funny...Look.

She indicates the door to the Treasure hold. It's been smashed and the hatchway flung wide open. Daniel rushes over and peers into the dark hold. He turns back to Bonnie-Ann:

DANIEL

It's still here...the Mirror!

Kidd looks into the hold as well.

KIDD

Aye, and most of the plunder.

Suddenly there comes a muffled BANGING and hollering from below decks:

MUFFLED VOICES (O.S.)

Let us out! Get us out of here!

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel exchange nervous looks. Gabriel walks over to a locked hatch from where the noise is emanating.

GABRIEL

It's Mister Arris I think sir.

He pulls the pin and opens the hatch. Arris and the others faithful to Kidd emerge into the daylight. They are very glad to be breathing fresh air.

KIDD

A report, Mister Arris.

ARRIS

They swarmed us, Captain. We was overwhelmed.

OWENS

Practically defenseless we was.

ARRIS

They herded us all up and locked us in the hold while they raided the ship. Then...about midnight I'd say it was, it got quiet, like they'd all abandoned ship at once.

Kidd and the threesome chuckle knowingly.

KIDD

Aye, that they did, Mister Arris.

Then, Gabriel notices something on the horizon.

GABRIEL

(points)

Captain Kidd, look!

Attention is turned to distant waters off the port bow. The *Mocha Frigat* has unfurled her sails and is cruising for the open sea.

KIDD

Culliford and his addle-pated fools.
Heading for the open seas with their
tails between their mutinous legs. Aye
and good riddance!

ARRIS

What's to be done now, sir?

KIDD

With that scurvy-ridden lot away, I'd
reckon there'll be nigh aught but *decent*
men left in yonder settlement. Mister
Arris...

ARRIS

Aye sir.

KIDD

Gather a detail to go ashore to
recruit a fresh crew and purchase
supplies. Mister Owens, take charge
of refitting and repairs. With the
next high tide we sails for the
Indies.

The men proceed to carry out the orders and the *Quedagh Merchant* begins to come back to life. Bonnie-Ann turns to Gabriel, puzzled.

BONNIE-ANN

The Indies? I thought we had to get the
ship to Boston.

DANIEL

(interrupts)

The Gulf Stream moves the trade winds
through the West Indies...you know, the
Carribbean. It may seem like the long
way, but it's really the fastest route.

BONNIE-ANN

Thank you Doctor Science.

(then)

Carribbean huh?

Kidd heads toward his cabin. Just before he disappears, however, he turns:

KIDD (cont'd)

Gabriel, set my quarters in order, and
bring my pipe.

GABRIEL

Aye, Captain.
(then to Bonnie-Ann)
I must go.

BONNIE-ANN

It's okay. I'll see ya later.

She sends him off with a smile.

DANIEL

If we set sail tomorrow the moon'll
probably be full about the time we sight
the Cape of Good Hope.

BONNIE-ANN

Full moon? To go back home? What's your
hurry? I dunno 'bout you, but I could go
for a nice romantic Caribbean cruise.

DANIEL

Bonnie-Ann, you're the only person I
know who can manage to be boy-crazy in
two different centuries.

BONNIE-ANN

You said yourself, when we do go home,
we'll arrive the same moment we left.

DANIEL

Yeah, but at the rate you're going,
you'll be old and gray the next time Mom
sees you.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ST. MARY'S HARBOR - DAY

The anchor of the *Quedagh Merchant* is hoisted. Her sails unfurl and,
with a fanfare, her bow begins plowing the water toward the open sea.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - DAY

Daniel looks out over the stern as he watches the island recede into
the distance. He turns to watch the seamen hoist lines and scramble
aloft in the rigging as the gulls circle the billowing sails.

INT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* GALLEY - DAY

In the hot, cramped ship's kitchen Bonnie-Ann helps Gabriel peel potatoes. Bonnie-Ann, because of the heat, has her shirt-tail tied up in a knot, exposing her midriff.

GABRIEL

So, Bonnie-Ann...uh...are...or were you a slave?

BONNIE-ANN

Huh? A slave? What do you mean?

GABRIEL

Your...ring.

He indicates her navel.

GABRIEL (cont'd)

I never knew anyone with that kind of ring who wasn't a slave...or a...lady of the evening.

BONNIE-ANN

(blushes)

No, it's nothing like that. I just got it because I thought it made me more attractive.

GABRIEL

Attractive...

A beat. He thinks about it. Bonnie-Ann breaks the awkward silence:

BONNIE-ANN

Well if you must know there was this boy I wanted to impress...but he turned out not to be worth it.

GABRIEL

If I were that boy I shouldn't need such a ring to be impressed.

BONNIE-ANN

(flirting)

Oh, that's sweet of you.

A beat.

BONNIE-ANN (cont'd)

What about you? I suppose you've got a girl in every port.

GABRIEL

No, not exactly.

BONNIE-ANN

Somebody back home then?

GABRIEL

(a bit embarrassed)
Well yes...I am betrothed.

BONNIE-ANN
(raises her eyebrows)
You mean like, engaged? To who?

GABRIEL
I...I have never met her.

Bonnie-Ann is bowled over.

BONNIE-ANN
(takes a deep breath then, to herself)
Well, Toto I guess we're not in Kansas any more...

GABRIEL
My mother and father...when I was a baby they arranged for me to be married to a dear friend's daughter.

BONNIE-ANN
So you're supposed to marry somebody you don't even know, much less love...?!

He looks down.

GABRIEL
(blushing)
I shall learn to love her...

BONNIE-ANN
Gabriel, that's nuts.

GABRIEL
Perhaps at the end of this voyage I shall have enough money to comfortably take her to wife.

BONNIE-ANN
You let your parents push you around like that?

GABRIEL
I would not hurt my mother. She seeks only the best for me.

BONNIE-ANN
(suddenly introspective)
I guess maybe there's comfort in knowing where your life's going.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

The *Quedagh Merchant* rolls magnificently through the swells of green.

EXT. QUEDAGH MERCHANT MAIN DECK - DAY

Daniel is hanging on the rail. The non-stop rolling of the ship is getting to him.

A call comes from aloft:

LOOKOUT
Ship ahoy off port Bow!

Daniel looks up to see Edward Davis, not far away, already peering through a spyglass.

Daniel wanders over to him.

DANIEL
What is it, Mister Davis?

Kidd too comes over and Davis hands him the glass.

DAVIS
Portuguese, methinks, Captain. She rides low. Heavy with swag from the Indies I'll wager.

Kidd holds the glass to his eye. A leering group of seamen gather around the captain as they look out to the potential victim.

DAVIS (cont'd)
We can take her sir.

KIDD
Blast me I thought I'd left all ye dark-hearted maggots with Culliford.

Kidd looks around at all the eager, dangerous faces.

KIDD (cont'd)
...and another mutiny I'll wager if we fails to reap the spoils of fortune.

DAVIS
A bigger share for every man it would be, sir...

A long beat. Kidd turns and addresses the HELMSMAN:

KIDD (cont'd)
Mister Lamley, set course to intercept that vessel.

LAMLEY
(grins enthusiastically)
Aye, Captain.

He turns the wheel in the direction of the Portuguese ship.

DANIEL

Captain, what are you doing?

KIDD

We've a fresh crew and they'll be fagged and soggy. We can outgun 'em.

DANIEL

You mean you're actually gonna commandeer that ship?

Kidd takes another look through the glass.

KIDD

(resolute)

Always the sharp one ye are, Prophet Daniel.

DANIEL

But it's not French. And it's not a pirate vessel. We don't have the authority to take a ship like that.

KIDD

I've got enough French papers from this ship. We'll keep our necks from the noose.

He puts the glass down and starts barking orders.

KIDD (cont'd)

Mister Ware, prepare all gun crews. Order them to report to stations and stand by.

Ware departs.

Bonnie-Ann wanders up from below in time to observe the ensuing heated discussion:

DANIEL

You're gonna attack em? Captain for Pete's sake...

KIDD

I'll not face mutiny because we fail to take a prize that Providence puts in our laps.

DANIEL

Providence, my butt. You're lettin' your crew push you around.

KIDD

There's a vessel ripe for plunder and we're ripe for plunderin'

DANIEL

Captain, don't do this. You're under the king's commission.

KIDD

And what has it got me? A mutinous crew, a burned hulk of my ship, and half of my legitimate prize rifled and carried off by thieving dogs.

DANIEL

But you're not a pirate. You've always played by the rules. Captain, you can't have it both ways!

With that Kidd whirls and snarls directly in Daniel's face.

KIDD

(his face red)

The devil I can't! Get below.

Daniel reluctantly obeys and storms off, leaving the nearby Bonnie-Ann somewhat stunned at the exchange. She's never seen her brother so upset without her causing it herself.

Kidd turns to the SHIPMASTER:

KIDD (cont'd)

Mister Ware, as we approach prepare portside guns one and three to fire a round each across their bow.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

The gunports of the *Quedagh Merchant* swing open and two large cannon belch forth with their blistering blast.

The shots narrowly miss the nearby Portuguese Brigantine, erupting water that splashes over her bow.

INT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT*-CREW QUARTERS - SAME

The sound of the CANNON BLAST startles and terrifies Bonnie-Ann. She rushes down the stairs to Daniel, not knowing what to do.

BONNIE-ANN

Daniel, what's going on?

DANIEL

Nothing, just my one-time hero being a jerk.

He flops onto his hammock-bunk in disgust.

EXT. OPEN SEA - SAME

It isn't long before the Portuguese ship trims her sails and hoists a white flag.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - SAME

The crewmen of the *Quedagh* heave a dozen grappling hooks over toward the Portuguese vessel.

EXT. OPEN SEA - SAME

The lines are tightened and the two ships are drawn together side by side.

More ropes and hooks are thrown aloft into the Portuguese rigging.

EXT. *QUEDAGH MERCHANT* MAIN DECK - SAME

Kidd's men use the newly thrown lines to swing across, swords and knives drawn, to the Portuguese vessel, shouting and whooping as they go.

Others drop planks across the two ships' rails and scurry back and forth, returning with arms full of loot from the Portuguese ship.

Bonnie-Ann and Daniel peer out from the safety of an ajar hatchway to observe the mayhem. Daniel is blithely gnawing on an apple.

DANIEL

Why do grown-ups act so childish?

BONNIE-ANN

(wrinkles her nose)

There's gotta be an easier way to make a living.

DANIEL

You got that right.

DISSOLVE TO:

To read the rest of Kidd Brother,
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